West Asia due to wrong policies of Government as reported in the Indian Express of 13th February, 1989;

(b) whether Government have any estimate of the number of workers who lost work because PTA (prepaid travel advice) and the number of workers who got jobs during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government would repeal this regulation of PTA to ensure free flow of labour to countries especially to Gulf, so that our falling foreign exchange reserves could be boosted and unemployment problems reduced to some extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) The Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder set out the conditions under which emigrant workers can proceed abroad for work. The Act was framed to prevent exploitation of such workers. Under the Rules, to and fro air passages at employer's cost have to be provided for in every contract for employment.

(b) All emigrant workers have to fulfil the provisions of the Act and the Rules thereunder, and hence there can arise no question of estimating any such loss of jobs. In the last 3 years 4,08,812 workers were cleared, and there has been an increase in 1987 and 1988 as compared to 1986.

(c) There is no such proposal before Government.

Number of unregistered agents to agents to engage labour to foreign countries

2692. *SHRI* SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unregistered agents who send labour to foreign countries is very large; if so, the estimated number thereof;

(b) whether Government have received complaints against such agents who do not take proper care of workers sent abroad; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against such agents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) According to the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983, no person can function as recruiting agent without a vaild Certificate and only registered recruiting agents can carry on the business of recruitment under and in accordance with a registration certificate. All offences under the Act are cognizable. Complaints are received from time to time against the unregistered agents and these are referred to police for investigation.

Formation of cooperatives in rural areas for collection of raw materials for food processing industries

2693. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals are under consideration for forming co-operatives in rural areas for collection of raw materials for food processing industries; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No specific proposal has been received by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for forming cooperatives in rural areas for collection of raw materials for food processing industries.